

2001 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Customer Focus - Kent Walker Dairy

Kent Walker owns and operates a 373-acre dairy farm in Greene County. The dairy farm consists of 125 head of milk cows, which are milked twice a day, and 65 replacement heifers. The Walker Dairy has operated for many years and was handed down to Kent by his father, who still helps with the dairy operation. The Walker family, especially Kent, has always been conservation minded. In fact, the first lagoon to be constructed in Greene County was built and is still utilized on the farm.

Kent is always looking for ways to better his farm and the environment. As Kent states, "It is up to me to make sure I can leave this land to my children and grandchildren in as good as shape if not better than it is now." It is plain to see as you walk over the farm, that he is well on the way to doing just that.

One concern that Kent has had on the farm is the area around the milk barn where his cows enter and exit during milking. During rainy seasons, this area becomes extremely muddy and boggy. This results in large amounts of mud and manure being tracked into the barn by cows, requiring additional washing and prepping before they can be milked.

Also, this area becomes more susceptible to run-off during storm event threatening a nearby stream with high nutrient inputs.

Kent decided to apply for EQIP. His application was approved and within a couple months he began installing the heavy use area. On top of stabilizing the area around the barn, Kent is now able to remove the concentration of manure deposited on the area and apply them to his fields for added nutrient benefits and reduce the chance of them washing down to the stream. Kent remarked, "The heavy use area is going to be a major improvement to this farm, and I would never been able to get it done had it not been for EQIP."

Georgia Summary

Overview

In Georgia, strong interest and participation in the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) continued through FY 2001. Applications requesting Federal cost-share funds totaling over \$9 million dollars were submitted by landowners. The Georgia FY 2001 allocation for financial assistance was about \$3,254,000. This is a shortfall of about \$6 million to meet current client needs. NRCS staff and our partners developed and approved 471 EQIP conservation plans and contracts, which obligated all of allocated financial assistance funds.

Accomplishments

EQIP financial assistance has been distributed in Georgia through 18 Priority Areas and a Statewide Resource Concerns project. About \$2,384,000 in EQIP Federal cost-share dollars were obligated in Priority Areas and \$870,000 obligated towards Statewide Resource Concerns. FY 2001 EQIP conservation plans and contracts covered nearly 248,000 acres throughout the State. In addition to financial assistance, nearly all of \$67,100 in EQIP education funds was awarded in grants to organizations and groups promoting resource conservation throughout the state. Since the inception of EQIP in Georgia, over 25,000 distinct conservation practices have been planned in EQIP on over 1840 contracts.

Outlook

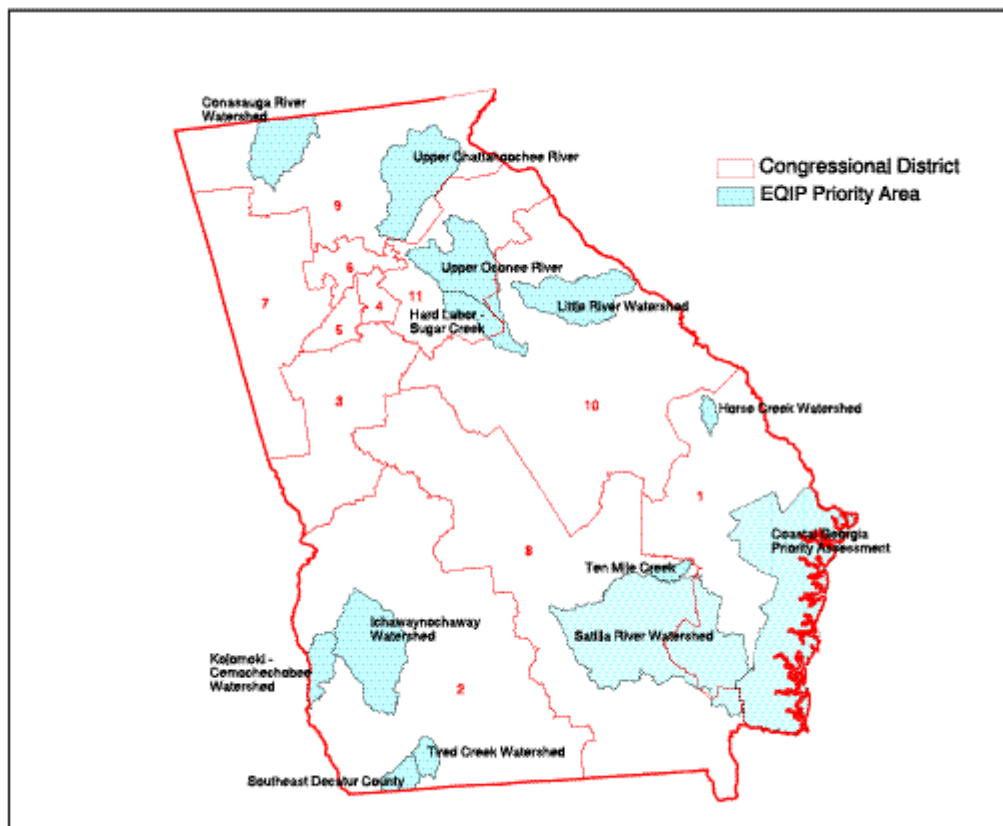
If participation were a measure of success of a program, Georgia would report tremendous success with EQIP. The total unmet needs requested from clients are about \$6,000,000 in FY 2001. These figures indicate the need for continued program support to address significant resource concerns. This has been a consistent pattern through out the life of the program. The opportunity for a healthy environment is in reach, and EQIP is a tool that can and should be used to get us there.

State Contact

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Georgia EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



Georgia EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional Districts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (97-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	416,456	31	869,881	157
District 2	892,334	81	3,020,789	359
District 3	43,406	10	171,905	18
District 7	56,943	18	472,225	172
District 8	518,655	96	1,552,656	385
District 9	781,124	51	2,113,610	327
District 10	267,834	117	1,022,757	223
District 11	277,599	67	1,185,362	201
State Totals	\$3,254,351	471	\$10,409,185	1842

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